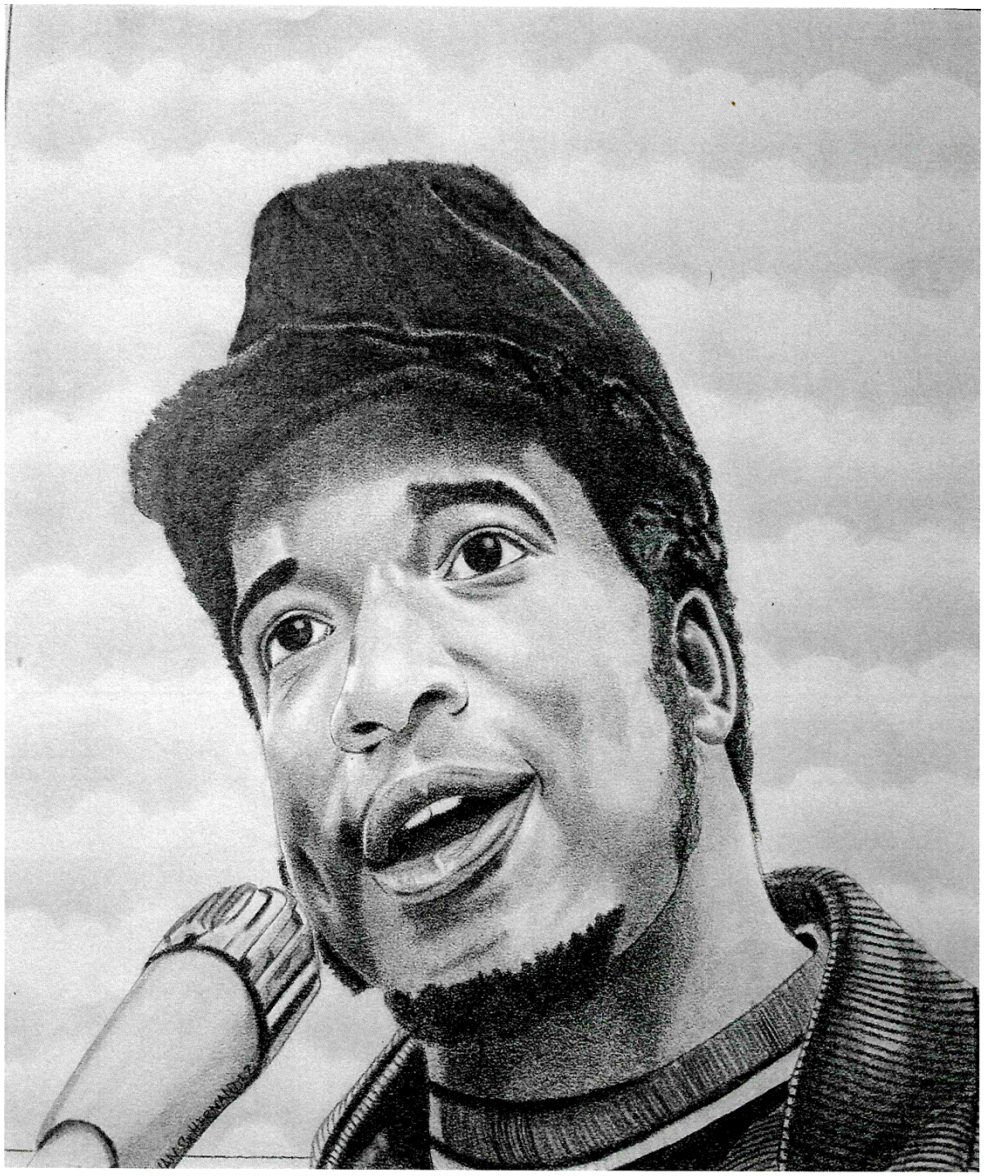
Midwest Books to Prisoners
BOOK
MIDWEST BOOKS TO PRISONERS
COMMUNITY ZINE
2022



Juan Carlos Hernandez

Dwight Quigley

Midwest Books to Prisoners is an all-volunteer 501 (c)(3) not for profit organization based in Chicago. Since 2004 we have been accepting requests from any and all incarcerated people and mailing them reading material that corresponds to their areas of interest free of charge.

If you or a loved one would like to request reading material, you can contact us via snail mail at:

Midwest Books to Prisoners
1321 N. Milwaukee Ave PMB #460
Chicago, IL 60622

or find us on the net at:

www.MidwestBooksToPrisoners.org
Email: midwestb2p@gmail.com
Twitter: @midwestbooks2p
Instagram: @midwestbooks2p
Facebook: facebook.com/mwb2p

Shout out to all the incarcerated artists and authors who have contributed their works and made this zine possible!

It has been a difficult year for those caught up in the system. As the pandemic rages on, conditions in jails and prisons get worse and worse with no regard to health or human rights. Prison administrators across the country are also waging a war on reading materials, attempting to prevent incarcerated people from reading about the outside world while also silencing their voices to prevent the public from hearing the truth about what's happening inside the prison industrial complex.

Where they build walls and barbed wire fences, we will build bridges. The relationships we develop with people who have written to us remind us with each heartening soulful letter of the importance and urgency of the moment, inspiring us to keep fighting. We work so the day will come when prisons are no more and all the people are free. Until then, we will continue to send books and make zines.

Solidarity From All Of Us at Midwest Books to Prisoners!

Alan Piwowar

Table of Contents

4 Illinois Prison News In Brief
6 Mailroom Censorship
12 Book club, Newsletters,
14 Legal Materials
20 Resource Directory

22, 23 Adrian Pettis
25, 26 Bob Covelli
27 Drew Betterly
28, 29 William Bouton
30 John Wilson
31 Michael Green
31 Anonymous
32 C.T. Riley
33 Gabby Gilkins
34 Andrew Arciniega
35 Steven Daniels-Bey
37 Benito Salgado
37 Samantha Shader
38 Leon Watson
38 Braydon Trotter
39 Alan Piwowar
39 Eric Valez
Cover: Adrian Pettis
Inside Front: Juan Carlos Hernandez
Inside Back: Dwight Quigley

40 Contributor Addresses

We try to support people inside by sending reading material. When ordering in the future (or letting others know about our service) please keep in mind the following:

1. We are a very small bookstore / organization, completely run by volunteers. None of us on "staff" are paid: we all have other jobs and do this in our spare time. We get hundreds of requests each month for books. We try to fill as many as possible, but sometimes we get behind. So please be patient; we are sorry for any delays.

2. We operate on 100% donations, so sometimes we are able to send more packages when the donations are plentiful.

3. We will look you up before sending to make sure that you have not been moved so that we are mailing to the correct location.

4. Please donate the books to other people inside or to the facility library (if you have one) when you are done with them. We want to make sure as many people have access to reading and education material as possible.

5. We do not have a catalog that you can order from. Simply tell us the genre that you are looking for, or interests you have. We will try to match your requests to the books we have in stock at that time, best as possible. Try to be both specific and general in your requests. For example, "I would love Stephen Kings It, but any horror book is good too"

6. When you write to us, please let us know of your facility rules for books. This helps us a lot and minimizes books being returned.

7. We can read letters in English and Spanish (hablamos espanol) We also have (limited) books in foreign languages.

8. Want to help? We can always use stamps if you have extra, but no worries if you don't. We can also use thank you notes to put on our website for our donors. You can include your name if you wish, or don't sign it if you wish your thank you note remain anonymous. Please write "thank you" on the envelope.

9. Are you an artist? Consider donating some art to us. We can sell it on our website (prints and/or original) and raise money for our project. And we can donate some funds back to you! Write us for more info on this.

10. We have children's books! Would you like to have children's books to read to your kiddos? Or have them sent to your kiddos? Please write us about this service as well. Be sure to include what age/reading level you are asking for.

11. When is your birthday? Let us know! Sometimes we are totally guessing as to the books we send. Feel free to tell us what you think of them next time you write.

HOW TO SUPPORT MIDWEST BOOKS TO PRISONERS!

FUNDING:

Since the beginning of the pandemic, the number of requests we receive has quadrupled. By donating just a few dollars, you can help pay for postage costs which allow us to continue to provide books and other print media to the incarcerated people we serve, free of charge. Find donation information on our website: www.MidwestBooksToPrisoners.org.

DONATING BOOKS:

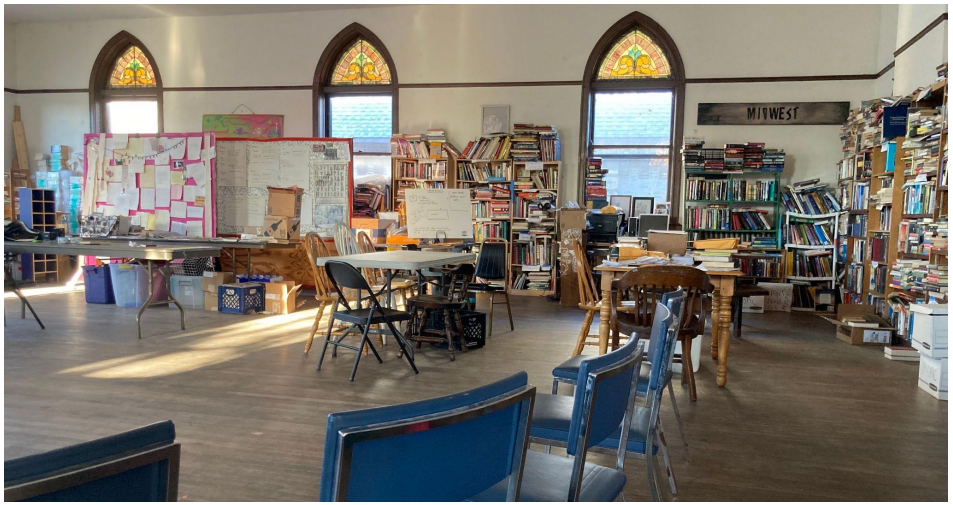
We accept fiction, nonfiction, graphic novels, textbooks, magazines, religious texts, art books, zines, poetry and essay collections, coloring books, or anything else. No spiral bound or leather-covers. Must be "new-ish" (mailroom guards are tripping about stains). Please note: we do not send or accept materials which advocate hatred towards people on the basis of race, gender, sexual orientation, or religious affiliation. You can drop donations off at the the Community Center door at:

First Trinity Lutheran Church
643 W. 31st Street
Chicago, Illinois 60608

VOLUNTEERING:

We are an all-volunteer organization and looking for more help! We meet every Saturday at Noon at the Community Center at the above address to pack books and respond to requests. Find out more about volunteering on our website:

www.MidwestBooksToPrisoners.org

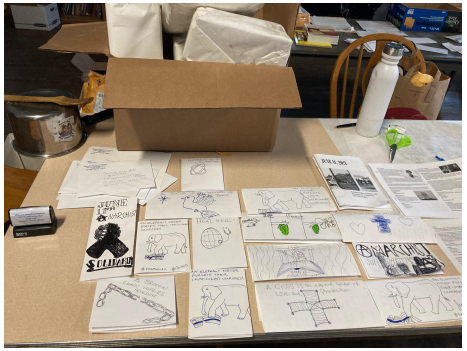


Midwest Books to Prisoners meets every Saturday at the Orphanage. Join us!

Thank You letters

Running Down the Walls - CCJ

We mail this out every week!



Drawing Cards for Political Prisoners

Illinois Prison News In Brief

Pretrial Fairness Act: Abolition of Money Bond Goes Into Effect in 2023

(Excerpt from Coalition to End Money Bond)

The abolition of money bond and its replacement with a new, individualized pretrial decision making process will take effect on January 1, 2023.

On January 13, 2021, the Illinois legislature passed the Pretrial Fairness Act as part of the Illinois Legislative Black Caucus' criminal justice reform bill, HB 3653 SFA2 (bill text). The Pretrial Fairness Act was written by advocates and organizers in the Coalition to End Money Bond and the Illinois Network for Pretrial Justice and championed in Springfield by Senators Elgie Sims and Robert Peters and Representative Justin Slaughter. The passage of the bill was only made possible because of the thousands of people and more than 100 organizations in our robust and diverse movement for pretrial freedom.

The Pretrial Fairness Act completely eliminates the role of money bond in Illinois, ensuring access to wealth will play no role in release or detention decisions. The Act also Limits Eligibility for Pretrial Incarceration, Regulates Risk Assessment Tools. Authorizes Release by Law Enforcement, Reduces Penalties for Violations of Pretrial Release Conditions, Requires Reconsideration of Detention and Release Conditions, Ensures Credit and Movement for People on Electronic Monitoring, Reforms the Warrant Process, Ensures Transparency and Oversight through Data Collection & Publication, and more. For more info see the Coalition to End Money Bond, the Chicago Community Bond Fund in Resources

Illinois Department of Corrections Held in Federal Contempt for Medical Neglect

(Excerpt from ACLU-Illinois)

IDOC fails to meet requirements in three class action settlements impacting people with medical needs and disabilities. A federal court judge issued an order of contempt against the Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC) after the Department repeatedly ignored court orders and failed to take appropriate steps to improve health care in the State's prison system. Specifically, the court acted after repeated failures by IDOC since 2018 to develop a specific, detailed plan needed to implement and remedy problems in the prison health care system that court experts identified multiple times.

"IDOC's failure here is staggering," said Camille Bennett, attorney at ACLU of Illinois. "They were required by court order three years ago to develop a plan to fix the unconstitutional health care deficiencies for our clients across the state, and they have yet to do it. We hope this will wake up their leadership."

Prisoners first sued IDOC in 2010, alleging systemic problems in health care, problems that lead to serious disease, harm and even death for people under the care of IDOC. The lawsuit, brought by named prisoners represented by the ACLU of Illinois, Dentons, and Uptown People's Law Center resulted in an agreement with the State of Illinois in 2018, approved by the court in May 2019. The agreement required IDOC to develop a comprehensive plan to improve medical care. For more than three years, the Department has failed to take that step, leading the court to enforce the contempt order.

Contributor Addresses

Shout outs to the incarcerated artists and authors who submitted their works! Here are their addresses if you would like to send them a message.

Benito Salgado
20210204089
2700 S California
Chicago, IL 60608

John Wilson
Reg # 63541-097
FCI Mendota
P.O. BOX 9
Mendota, CA 93640

Juan Carlos Hernandez
K86286
2600 N Brinton Ave
POB 1200
Dixon, IL 61021

Dwight Quigley
#11788
Jameson Annex
1600 North Drive
Sioux Falls, SD 57117

William Bouton
B25295
2600 N Brinton Ave
POB 1200
Dixon, IL 61021

Steven E Daniels-Bey
16658-041
USP Leavenworth
PO Box 1000
Leavenworth, Kansas 66048

Adrian Pettis
20210221028
2700 S California
Chicago, IL 60608

Leon Watson
B24941
251 N. Illinois Highway 37
Ina, IL 62846

Andrew Arciniega
20210824091
2700 S California
Chicago, IL 60608

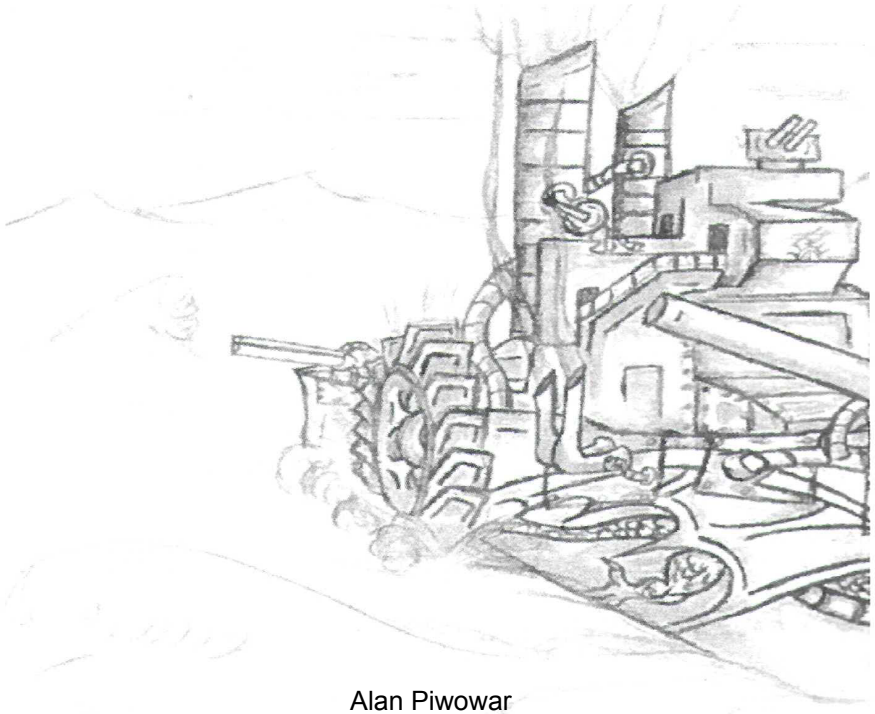
Clinton Troy Riley
#111204
New Castle Correctional Facility
1000 Van Nuys Rd
New Castle, IN 47362`

Michael Green P51693
POB 500 / A-233
Chino, CA 91708-0500

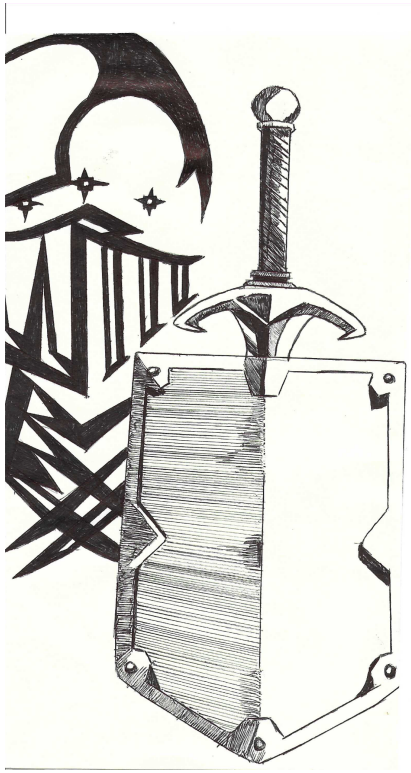
Alan Piwowar
#17453-027
FCI Jesup
2680 301 South
Jesup, GA 31599

Gabby Gilkins
(anonymous)

Bob Covelli
(released)



Alan Piwowar



Eric Valez

Drinking water in Illinois prisons is a crapshoot

by Anthony Ehlers (Excerpt from Chicago Reader)

... The water at Stateville has a long history of contaminants. “I’ve been hearing about contaminated water for years from prisoners,” Alan Mills, executive director of the Uptown People’s Law Center, told The Appeal in March. Mills also noted that prisoners have complained that the water is often brown, sometimes smells like sewage, and has black flecks in it. Stateville was built in the 1920s, and its infrastructure—including the plumbing—is crumbling. Prisoners are worried that its pipes contain lead, and the corrosion from these pipes is the reason for the brown water. The prisoners’ complaints of discolored and strange-tasting water have been on record with the Uptown People’s Law Center since 2013.

This past spring, IDOC and the Illinois Department of Public Health announced that Legionella bacteria was detected at Stateville. It was later revealed that water in five other prisons had also tested positive for the bacteria. Shari Stone-Mediatore, managing director of Parole Illinois, told The Appeal in April that she was “appalled that the IDOC seems to be more concerned with covering up the problem than with protecting the health of the people in their custody.”

Investigations of Rampant Abuse at USP Thomson, Illinois

In July, Senator Dick Durbin and other lawmakers including Senator Tammy Duckworth and U.S. Representative Cheri Bustos sent a letter to the Inspector General, calling for an immediate investigation into a report that was published by NPR and the Marshall Project that detailed the deaths of several inmates as well as allegations of abuse by prison staff at USP Thomson.

Senator Durbin toured around the prison and gave a press conference on his findings, as well as announcing that the investigation is currently ongoing. When TV6 asked Durbin about whether he thought the safety of inmates at the prison were “at risk,” he responded that all prisons are dangerous, however USP Thomson has a reasonable safety standard. “I would say, in terms of the standards of them being used to protect the inmates and the staff I think this is a reasonable situation, from what I saw today,” Durbin replied.

Dozens of BOP officials also visited USP Thomson in July. In a letter to the U.S. deputy attorney general, AFGE Local 4070, the union that represents guards at USP Thomson, demanded that Warden Thomas Bergami be removed, claiming he has placed inmates, staff and communities at risk.

The guard's union also went to the news to complain about handling contraband in the mail, claiming that three officers have been hospitalized, and asking that the prison outsource mail to the controversial mail digitization contractor "MailGuard" by Smart Communications. Previously, Dick Durbin co-authored a letter with U.S. Rep. Cheri Bustos (IL-17) to the BOP about their concerns for guards who claim to have been intoxicated by handling contraband smuggled through the mail. However, experts have thoroughly debunked the "accidental overdose risk" from accidentally inhaling or touching fentanyl while handling evidence as misinformation.

The Absurdity and Depravity of the Rise in Prison Mail Censorship

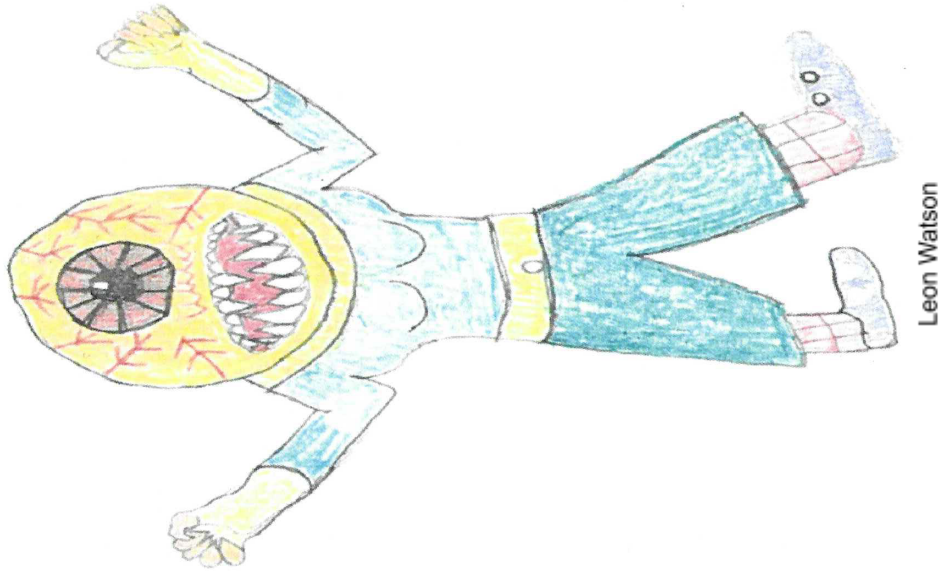
The pandemic exacerbated the cruel conditions of jail and prison with the closing of educational programs and libraries, preventing incarcerated people from having access to reading materials at a time of increased lockdowns and solitary confinement. We are often told by people writing to us that we are the only way that they can ever receive any reading material. It is in this context that prison authorities have worked to make the problem more cruel by implementing various new restrictions and regulations to prevent literature from reaching people. More often than not, they selectively enforce overly broad interpretations of new policies to cover for political and targeted repression and a general disdain for prisoner rights and the humanities. This prison mail censorship is taking place while right-wing reactionaries are trying to ban books from public schools and libraries, signifying a fascist escalation which must be opposed.

Some prison systems are outsourcing mail processing to profiteering digitization contractors such as Smart Communications or TextBehind: this prevents people from holding physical copies of their mail, forced to read poor scans or use expensive tablets. Others are narrowing the definition of a publisher or distributor to only Amazon or Edward R Hamilton, preventing ordinary bookstores or publishers of materials otherwise unavailable elsewhere from reaching people in prison. Many prisons, such as medium and high security federal institutions, by policy have previously allowed hardcover books if sent direct from the publisher, but many are now implementing their own institutional supplements which violate national policy. At other spots, they are brazenly banning all books, newspapers and magazines entirely.

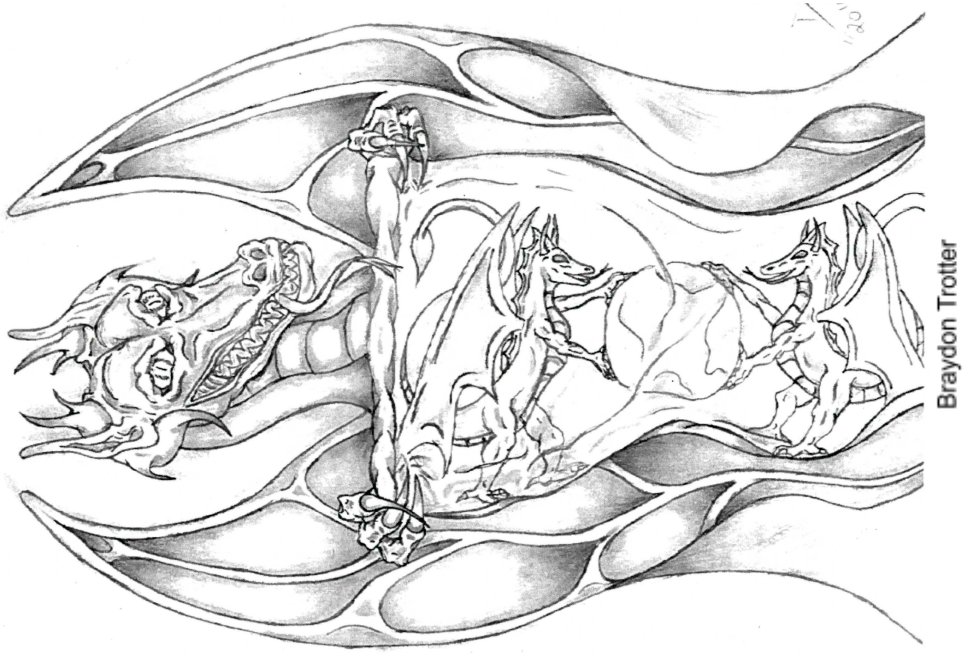
Most of these measures, which violate established court precedent and their own DOC and BOP program statements, are being done under the smokescreen of modified COVID operations or through War on Drugs fear mongering over drugs being smuggled in through books or mail soaked in synthetic drugs. Mail room guards are complaining that they are accidentally being intoxicated through handling contraband, despite the fact that scientists have thoroughly debunked the possibility of accidental fentanyl overdose risk (especially considering guards are usually required to use gloves and masks when handling mail). Many spots where they have eliminated physics visits and mail, drugs continue to be brought in through guards, demonstrating the pointless cruelty of banning books.

While it seems obvious that you shouldn't deprive people of their rights to receive mail to somehow prevent the alleged activities of a few people, the administration's war on reading materials is continuing to affect immeasurable harm on the imprisoned population. It has become increasingly difficult reaching people in surrounding states like Wisconsin, Iowa, Missouri, and Michigan. We are determined to break past these misinformed and overzealous restrictions to make sure incarcerated people who have contacted us get the good books they're looking for. If you are an incarcerated person who experienced these mailroom rejections, or have ideas how we can better bridge these walls, please write us.

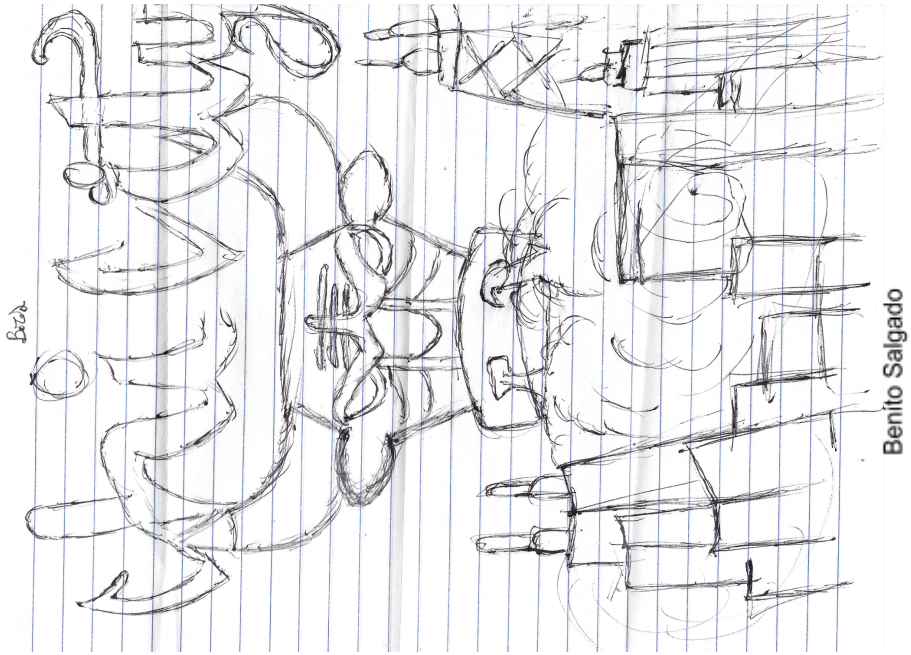
Midwest Books has had a significant rise in rejections for all kinds of ridiculous and trivial reasons (a stain, yellowed pages, highlighting, etc). Here's a small handful of particularly absurd rejections:



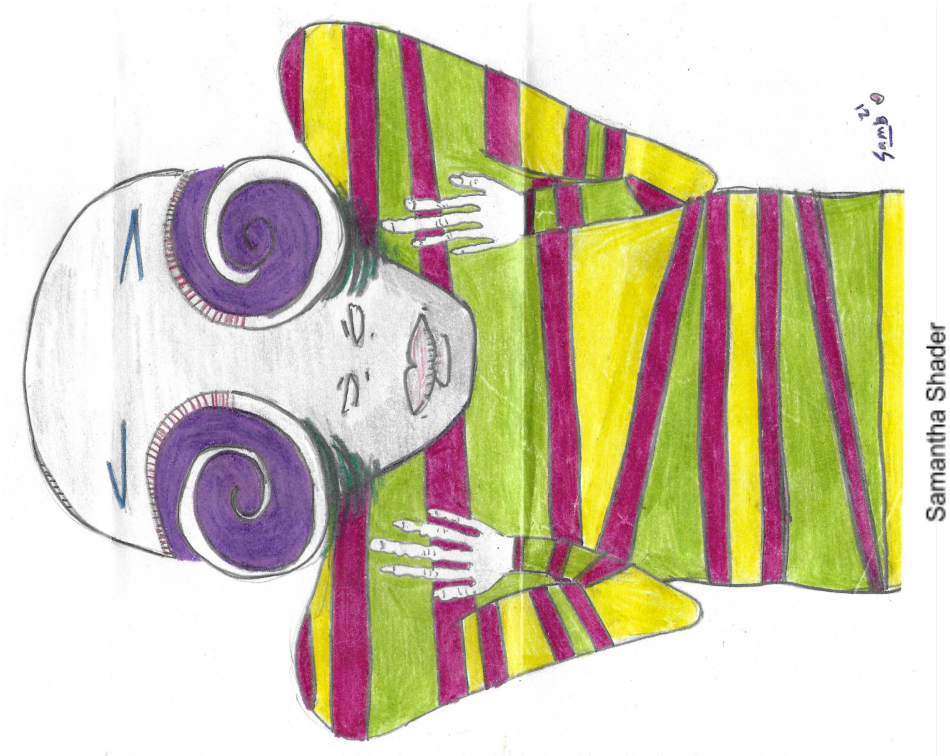
Leon Watson



Braydon Trotter



Benito Salgado



Samantha Shader

SHERBURNE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE - NOTICE OF CONTRABAND & APPEAL

[redacted] | [redacted] | [redacted] | [redacted]
Inmate/Detainee Name | SPN | Housing Unit/Cell Number | Date

[redacted] | LE #3380 | [redacted]
Date Mailed Via First Class U.S. Mail | Staff (Initials/Badge #) | Property Bag #

This is to notify you that 2 Booklets you received has been considered contraband for the following reason(s):
Description of Contraband

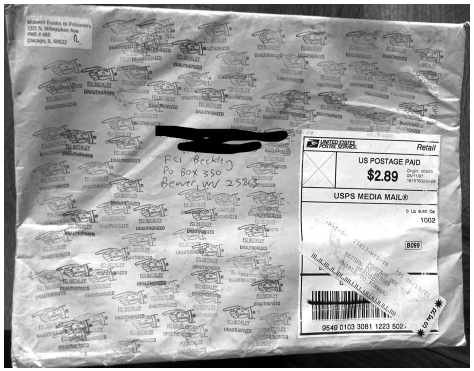
☒ Other (list one example with specificity):
2 Booklets promoting ancarchy against the prison system and violence between people of different races

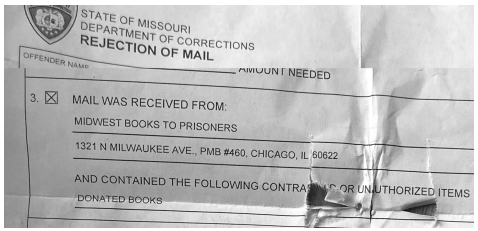
☒ Printed/Copied Material/Book(s) not received directly from the publisher/authorized vendor and/or hardcover
☐ Magazines, News
☐ Sexually explicit material, photos, pictures, drawings
☐ Gang related pho
☒ Other (list one example with specificity):
Used book, inappropriate reading material

☒ No books, to include photobooks
Books must be ordered through the Jail Program Coordinator pre-approved by Jail Administration

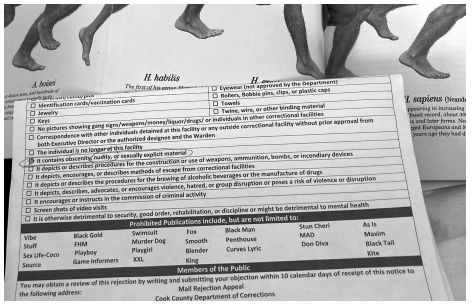
Sherbourne County, MN: banning political books, misspelling "ancarchy"

FCI Hazelton, WV: no "incoming publications" rejection which ordinarily requires a signature by The Warden and allows possibility of appeals by both prisoner and publisher. Just wrote in sharpie, "RTS non profit unauthorized". Same for FCI Beckley, also in WV, going a little overboard on the rejection stamps




STATE OF MISSOURI
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
REJECTION OF MAIL
OFFENDER NAME
AMOUNT NEEDED
3. ☒ MAIL WAS RECEIVED FROM:
MIDWEST BOOKS TO PRISONERS
1321 N MILWAUKEE AVE., PMB #460, CHICAGO, IL 60622
AND CONTAINED THE FOLLOWING CONTRA OR UNAUTHORIZED ITEMS
DONATED BOOKS

Missouri DOC says that "donated books" are considered "contraband" despite official policy allowing incoming publications from "bona fide publishers"


H. habilis
Prohibited Publications include, but are not limited to:
Members of the Public
Cook County Department of Corrections

Cook County Jail banning National Geographic Magazine for "nudity" because of scientific and artistic depiction of human evolution

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

NOTICE OF REJECTION OR IMPOUNDMENT OF PUBLICATIONS

Date: [redacted]

Inmate: [redacted] DC# [redacted]

Institution: Florida State Prison

This is notice that the following publication:

Title: Black Liberation and the Abolition of the Prison Industrial Complex

Volume/Issue/Edition:

Which was received on the following date: [redacted]

From: Midwest Books to Prisoners 1321 N. Milwaukee Ave. PMB #460 Chicago, IL 60622

☑ (15)(i) is dangerously inflammatory in that it advocates or encourages riot, insurrection, rebellion, organized prison protest, disruption of the institution, or the violation of the federal law, state law, or Department rules;

☑ (15)(p) otherwise presents a threat to the security, order, or rehabilitative objectives of the correctional system or the safety of any person.

PGS: No page numbers indicated – Pamphlet advocates rebellion

☑ IS IMPOUNDED pending review by the Department's Literature Review Committee, because the Warden or designee believes the publication contains subject matter that is inadmissible per Section (15) of Rule 33-501.401, F.A.C.

This is notice that the following publication:

Title: Program of the Black Autonomy Prison Federation

Florida banning Black Liberation literature

STATE OF MISSOURI
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
CENSORSHIP NOTIFICATION

INSTITUTION
Northeast Correctional Center

OFFENDER NAME & DOC NUMBER	HOUSING UNIT
[redacted]	

The Missouri Department of Corrections has reviewed materials sent to you. Pursuant to our review of this material, we conclude that the security of this institution will be at risk if the material is delivered to you within this institution because the material:

1. constitutes a threat to the security, good order or discipline of the institution;
2. may facilitate or encourage criminal activity; or
3. may interfere with the rehabilitation of an offender.

THIS CONCLUSION IS BASED UPON THE FACT THAT THE MATERIAL: (SELECT ALL REASONS THAT MAY APPLY)

provides information on how to obtain prohibited publications or provides information on how to order unauthorized items or contraband

TITLE
Prison Activist Resource Center

Missouri censoring the PARC National Resource Directory

South Dakota Department of Corrections
Policy
Distribution: Public

Attachment 7: Mailroom Correspondence Rejection Notice-Sender
Please refer to DOC policy 1.5.D.3
Inmate Correspondence

CORRESPONDENCE REJECTION NOTICE-SENDER

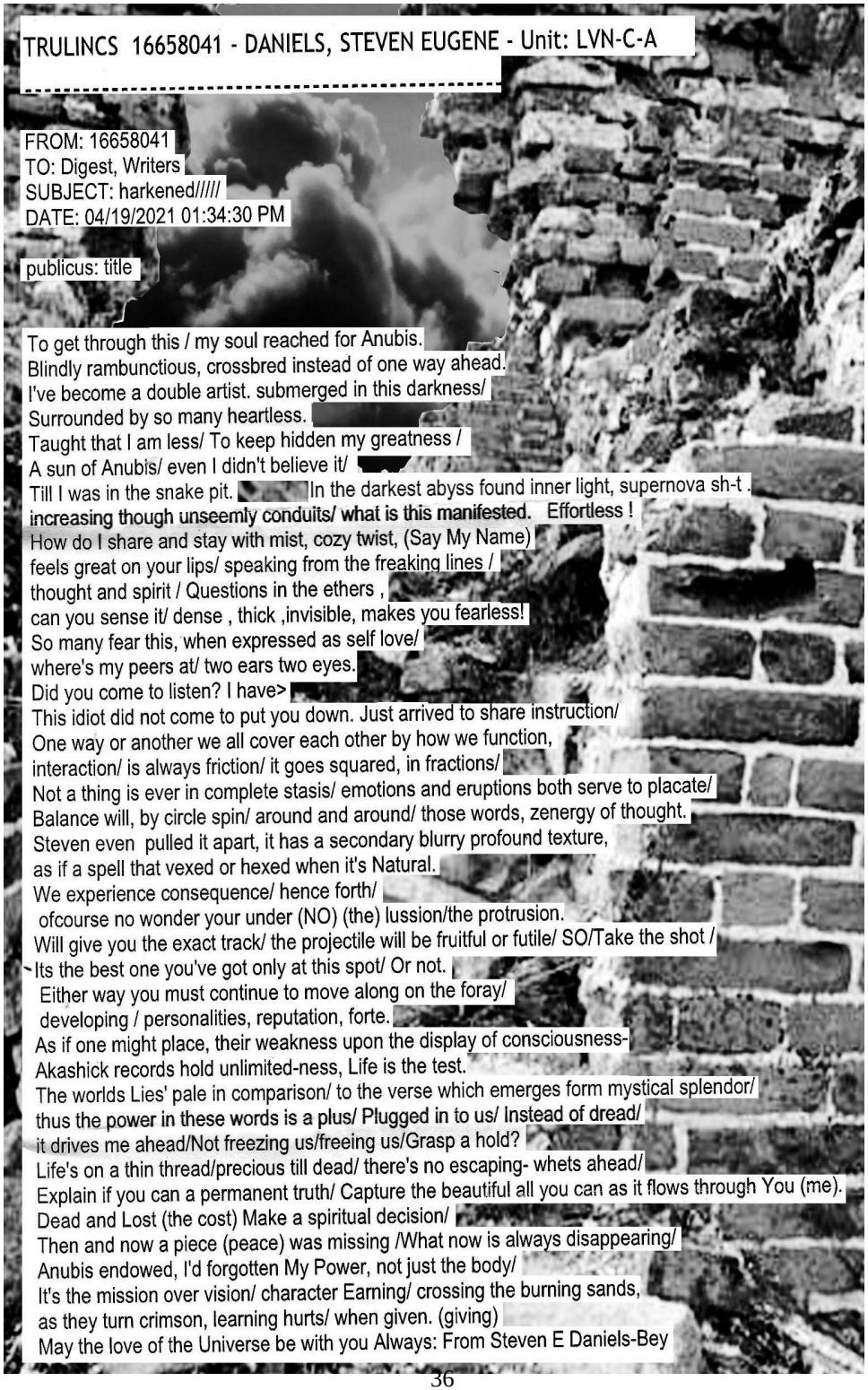
To: **Midwest books to prisoners**
Sender

Description of rejected item/correspondence: **1 book creator- owned heroes comic book issue 5 depicting violence with people being shot in the head**

☐ The correspondence contains contraband or unauthorized items that must be removed to facilitate delivery.

☒ The correspondence violates a Prohibited Act or any other rule, regulation, policy, operational memorandum or directive governing the DOC or this facility.

South Dakota State Penitentiary hating on graphic novels


TRULINCS 16658041 - DANIELS, STEVEN EUGENE - Unit: LVN-C-A
FROM: 16658041
TO: Digest, Writers
SUBJECT: harkened/////
DATE: 04/19/2021 01:34:30 PM
publicus: title
To get through this / my soul reached for Anubis.
Blindly rambunctious, crossbred instead of one way ahead.
I've become a double artist. submerged in this darkness/
Surrounded by so many heartless.
Taught that I am less/ To keep hidden my greatness /
A sun of Anubis/ even I didn't believe it/
Till I was in the snake pit. In the darkest abyss found inner light, supernova sh-t .
increasing though unseemly conduits/ what is this manifested. Effortless !
How do I share and stay with mist, cozy twist, (Say My Name)
feels great on your lips/ speaking from the freaking lines /
thought and spirit / Questions in the ethers ,
can you sense it/ dense , thick ,invisible, makes you fearless!
So many fear this, when expressed as self love/
where's my peers at/ two ears two eyes.
Did you come to listen? I have>
This idiot did not come to put you down. Just arrived to share instruction/
One way or another we all cover each other by how we function,
interaction/ is always friction/ it goes squared, in fractions/
Not a thing is ever in complete stasis/ emotions and eruptions both serve to placate/
Balance will, by circle spin/ around and around/ those words, zenergy of thought.
Steven even pulled it apart, it has a secondary blurry profound texture,
as if a spell that vexed or hexed when it's Natural.
We experience consequence/ hence forth/
ofcourse no wonder your under (NO) (the) lussion/the protrusion.
Will give you the exact track/ the projectile will be fruitful or futile/ SO/Take the shot /
Its the best one you've got only at this spot/ Or not.
Either way you must continue to move along on the foray/
developing / personalities, reputation, forte.
As if one might place, their weakness upon the display of consciousness-
Akashick records hold unlimited-ness, Life is the test.
The worlds Lies' pale in comparison/ to the verse which emerges form mystical splendor/
thus the power in these words is a plus/ Plugged in to us/ Instead of dread/
it drives me ahead/Not freezing us/freeing us/Grasp a hold?
Life's on a thin thread/precious till dead/ there's no escaping- whets ahead/
Explain if you can a permanent truth/ Capture the beautiful all you can as it flows through You (me).
Dead and Lost (the cost) Make a spiritual decision/
Then and now a piece (peace) was missing /What now is always disappearing/
Anubis endowed, I'd forgotten My Power, not just the body/
It's the mission over vision/ character Earning/ crossing the burning sands,
as they turn crimson, learning hurts/ when given. (giving)
May the love of the Universe be with you Always: From Steven E Daniels-Bey

Paul, Dale D - DOC

From: Blount, Ryan M - DOC
Sent: Monday, April 26, 2021 7:42 AM
To: DOC DL DAI CCI Sec Sup; DOC DL DAI CCI CO; DOC DL DAI CCI SGT
Cc: Olson, Wayne S - DOC
Subject: FW: Midwest Books for Prisoners

FYI

Ryan Blount
Columbia Correctional Institution Security Director
(608)742-9106 office
(608)617-1195 cell
Ryan.Blount@Wisconsin.gov

From: Foster, Brian J - DOC
Sent: Friday, April 23, 2021 12:37 PM
To: DOC DL DAI Security Dir <DOCDlDAISecurityDir@wisconsin.gov>
Subject: Midwest Books for Prisoners

Some sites have seen an increase in books arriving from the above named vendor, "Midwest Books for Prisoners". After review and discussion it has been determined that we will not be accepting books from this vendor. Please disseminate this to necessary staff at your sites.

Thank you,

Brian Foster
Security Chief
Division of Adult Institutions
Wisconsin Department of Corrections
Office 608-240-5105
Cell 920-948-2772

Wisconsin DOC Places Midwest Books to Prisoners on Secret Ban List

We obtained an email exposing Wisconsin DOC administrators explicitly banning our organization from sending books to people they imprison. The email between Brian J Foster, Security Chief at Wisconsin Department of Corrections, and Ryan Blount, Columbia CI Security Director reads: *"Some sites have seen an increase in books arriving from the above named vendor, "Midwest Books for Prisoners". After review and discussion it has been determined that we will not be accepting books from this vendor. Please disseminate this to necessary staff at your sites".*

Midwest Books to Prisoners, as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and a legitimate book publisher and distributor, has been sending books to people incarcerated in Wisconsin for twenty years without incident. Official policy explicitly allows books, magazines, and newspapers sent directly from publishers and distributors. We were never notified that we were banned, but books started being rejected. No reason given after their "review and discussion" nor any opportunity to appeal the decision: the only clue as to their concern was discovered in this email that "some sites have seen an increase in books arriving".

We want to point out that the same Brian Foster, one month after writing this email, was also named as the new Iowa DOC Chief Security Operations Director. Both Iowa and Wisconsin DOC switched to privatized mail digitization services in the past year.

We have previously been able to get books into every state without any problems; however, in the past two years, prison administrators have implemented new policy changes that are preventing us from reaching many people who request from us.

- **Michigan DOC** has rejected our books because we are not an "authorized" publisher. Policy supposedly allows incoming books from publishers/distributors. In July 2022, they banned all Spanish and Swahili dictionaries, but was forced to reverse this after widespread outrage.
- **Iowa DOC**: As of July 2022, no more books to Iowa DOC after they outsourced their entire mail operation to Pigeonly Corrections in Las Vegas for scanning and reprinting. Pigeonly had previously provided photo print services for prisoners but now is more actively soliciting relationships with prison authorities to be the exclusive provider of all mail.
- **Wisconsin**: Policy allows publishers and distributors to send books, but they have explicitly placed our group on a secret ban list at all DOC locations. Wisconsin has also outsourced all physical mail to private digitization service "TextBehind"
- **Missouri DOC:** As of July 2022 Missouri is now also outsourcing all physical mail to prison telecom giant Securus for digitization. Books supposedly still allowed if sent from a "bona fide" publisher/distributor, however, we have seen an increase in rejections.
- **Indiana DOC** last year had attempted to only allow books from Amazon and Edward R Hamilton, but was stopped after the Human Rights Defense Center won an injunction in federal court (Case 1:20-cv-02979-JRS-MJD), so we continue to send books to Indiana.

Another delay
Then sent to scanning service
Postage is paid, and letter is mailed out
Mail Scanned off center
OUT of STATE SCANNING SERVICE
Post Office
Loved One
1234 Freedom Lane
Indigenous, Land
Victim of mass incarceration
U.S. Torture Center
END THE MAIL BAN
Sent to the prison, & charged for printing
To actually recieve mail can cost twice as much or more!!!
Trying to view messages
NO Service
Acces to mail is limited to emotional value

She's My Concrete Jungle
By Andrew Arciniega

Nights that were once lived by insanity's obedience,
Youth's driven to segregation because of it's influence.
Bigotry was no longer of skin color but now of a star,
Curiosity was youth's Death for folks & people that went too far.
Unwise judgements from innocence's corrupted by truth's falsified,
Our youth lived by wars that left us tormented & brutalized.
Scars lay upon us because of past & recent generation's ignorance,
Fear became our choice of wisdom & pain our guidance.
Togetherness sought her comfort her blood was cold concrete,
She bares the scars of our stories of a bloody defeat.
Pilsen raised, Cook County groomed but Statesville's calamity
She became my first love, her love became my insanity.
Once I was asked "what did she give besides your name?"
A love unmeasurable, wounds unbearable & both remain..
Some called her a Concrete Jungle, we called her home,
To us the lost children the streets lever leave you alone!

Cranial Indigestion
By Gabby Gilkins

What's an octopus have to gain
With his mouth so close to his brain?
Gastroencephalitis-
I didn't coin it to spite us-
Brain trauma caused by stomach strain.

Octode: Eight Is Enough
A neat critter is the octopus
He does not raise an octo-fuss.
Nor does he ever question why
Two of him are octopi

With skill he gets each treat and prize;
His brain helps his waterlogged eyes.
For little fish his stomach yearns,
And with four arms he signals turns.

Octopus: Octode Of Admiration
Scientists put fish in a jar,
Which he opened, the shining star,
Despite a lid screwed tightly on,
He ate the fish, and was octo-gone.

It's good to know that octo means eight,
For this makes the octopus doubly great,
With eight arms he maneuvers sea and rocks
And turns all eight colors of my crayon box

Monopoly on Communication, Tablets, & Freedom of Speech: The Tragedy of Mail Scanning

1. A person can only send 5 pages per envelope, so sending in legal research, help, and or educational materials will be impossible.
2. Workers unable to handle the workload of mail, plus machine inefficiency, mail will constantly be scanned off center, so you will miss part of your documents sometimes.
3. The originals are trashed! No more drawings from loved ones or important documents
4. IF you want something printed in black and white, you have to pay for it, $.10-.25 per page. If you want something color, you gotta pay for it $1 per page
5. If everything is digital, what happens if their server crashes, or the tablet malfunctions. You will not have access to your copies like you would physical copies.
6. It takes longer to get the mail! The mail is typically sent out of state for the service, I sent a letter to somebody in a jail in Illinois and it did not arrive for a month. Also it increases the chances of it being lost in the mail, and causes the sender of the mail to wonder if it got lost before or after it was scanned.
7. They say it's a security thing because it will prevent drugs from coming in, but we all know the war on drugs is a farce & if money is to be made, somebody will always find a way to make it. It's just another scam & a business deal so these prison profiteers can make more money. Complaints have been made by prison staff, of being intoxicated from handling incoming mail. While Studies by medical professionals have found it impossible to be affected by directly handling certain drugs. Especially while wearing gloves. Otherwise wouldn't mailmen always be contaminated?
8. Surveillance, each document will be recorded, and available for unlimited scrutiny and accusation. As a selling point, mail scanning service companies are bragging how it is a surveillance tool that prisons can use.
9. It's part of a bigger problem. Everything will be moved to the tablet. Some places are using tablets as books, charging $.03 per minute to read. Imagine trying to learn to read, study, and do research at that rate! Everything is being centralized around the tablets, which will reduce access to what types of reading materials will be available to readers. Recently a man went on hunger strike on death row, scheduled to be executed in a little over a year. He uses the tablet to bring awareness to his unjust execution and to communicate with the outside world so he can stop his execution. His phone calls kept being dropped on the tablet, and every second counts when fighting for your life. Tablet functionality can literally become a life and death situation. Add the mail scanning functionality to that and you have too many opportunities for error.
10. It may be possible to lose info saved on your tablet, just like when songs are erased off of your tablet. Imagine hard to access documents being erased off your tablet during a time of need.

Book Club

If you are interested in starting a book club or study group at your institution, we can help to get you started by mailing you books and study guides. We currently have extra copies of the following titles: let us know which books and how many you'd like. The (HC) means Hardcover Only so check the rules at your institution before requesting.

Until We Reckon: Violence, Mass Incarceration, and a Road to Repair by Danielle Sered: New book which examines the root causes of violence, the failings of the criminal legal system, the failings of the carceral state, and a look at Common Justice in Brooklyn, NY an alternative to incarceration program.
Usual Cruelty by Alec Karakatsanis: New book on the failures of the criminal legal system and the complicity of attorneys
The Sentences That Create Us-On Developing Writing Skills while Incarcerated by PEN America: Helps people incarcerated develop writing skills to tell their stories, because each of us has a story worth telling.
One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest by Ken Kesey: (literary classic about mental institutions in the 1970s)
The Color Purple by Alice Walker: (literary classic about the traumas of a young black child being raised in the deep south during Jim Crow)
Native Son by Richard Wright (HC): (literary classic about a 20 year old black man living in total poverty on Chicago's Southside during the 1930s)
Four novellas: The Body, Shawshank Redemption, Apt Pupil & The Breathing Machine
A Farewell to Arms by Ernest Hemingway: literary classic about existential disillusionment during WWI
Of Beetles and Angels by Selamawi Asgedom: true story of a young boy's journey from civil war in east Africa to a refugee camp in Sudan to Harvard University
The Jungle by Upton Sinclair (HC): Literary classic set in Chicago in the 1800s about the horrors of the meat-packing industry in what is now Back-Of-The-Yards and the struggles of impoverished immigrants being exploited)
A Brave New World by Aldous Huxley: literary classic dystopic future that examines a futuristic society where emotions and individuality are conditioned out of children at a young age)
The Bloody Shirt: The Terror After The Civil War by Stephen Budiansky: Looks at the failures of reconstruction and how it led to Jim Crow
Cherokee Nation and the Trail of Tears by Michael D. Green and Theda Perdue: Tells the true story of the United States removal of indigenous people from their lands through forced march onto reservations. Many Cherokees died during this forced march of death.
The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn by Mark Twain: A barely literate teen who fakes his own death to escape his abusive, drunken father. He encounters a runaway
slave named Jim, and the two embark on a raft journey down the Mississippi River.
The Vindication of the Rights of Women by Mary Wollstonecraft: First published in 1972, this is a seminal feminist work advocating for equality between genders

"Liberation"
By C. T. Riley

Straight into the dark (followed after my heart):
pain, the prescription from the start,
with a constant fight - everyday & night
to bring my soul out the dark to the light

Something bout us: inside 'em
fear/love/hate our presence -
captured our bodies (but, not our essence)
Taught falsehood singing the alphabet ...
who I was (can't remember) so, I learned to forget,
life full of regret.

I was held hostage but what I refused to let go of...
still reached 4 liberation & love,
where no humans (no longer human) forgot about being
lone time, of last time amid dreaming,
technologically consumed by distractions devoid of meaning.
Reality neglected then presents itself in a cracked minor -
oblivious to the signs of 1 perfect storm drawing nearer.

I roamed the streets of higher planes
reachin 4 the almighty
from Philly, to the N-A-P, back to Cincinnati
every good got an elm street & a Freddy,
in between the blessing & the curse, the last shall be first
lessons learned from the best while going through the worst...
reaching liberation from the fear:
of, failure/death/self and a prison that profits of my being here
is human trafficking since the 1st prison sailed the middle passage.
introduced my people to guns/drugs/disease: they say I'm the savage;

From the cross to the streets & courts (Crucifixion is a fact).
Will you be ready 4 the next act?
What's your preoccupation, your ideology, justice & liberation?
It's not just about you - about me...
there can be no true liberation until we all get free!

From an anonymous prisoner at Fairfax Detention Center, Virginia

Place is beyond fucked up. My first week here in quarantine, an inmate had a temper tantrum so he broke a tablet(we have tablets here btw we can text, go on certain apps, video calls, read news, watch movies, etc.) The co's came and called code red and told the inmate to put his hands on the stair rail, the inmate complied. Then one co holds his hands so he couldn't move and the other co started beating the inmate, kneeing him. The inmate took a beating, we all started bangin yelling, wtt! Y'all doin?" Then the inmate head butted the CO and the other one body slammed him. The inmate started seizing cuz he landed on his head but the CO put his knee on his back while dude is shaking, convulsing, and foam coming out his mouth. He couldn't breathe. We all started bangin. They thought it was gonna become George Floyd shit. They hogtied him with cuffs eventually while he still seizing and dragged him out... I never found out what happened to him but I heard they do that a lot here. These co's are assholes, they don't give us rec if they don't feel like it, they're always "short on staff" so I'm always locked down in population. This is the worst jail I've ever been bro, it's not the inmates. It's the CO's. Sometimes they don't even have enough trays to feed us so I get fucked cuz I'm the last cell. These CO's are lazy AF, racist AF, and really go out of their way to make our lives miserable. I ask for toilet paper, they tell me to use my sock, I hit the intercom button to ask for a Sargent, and they write me up for...

Timeline by Michael Crichton: A group of history students have to travel back to the 14th Century to rescue their professor.
Witness by Karen Hesse: A young black girl experiences racial prejudice in a small rural town growing up.
Sea of Poppies and River of Smoke(HC) by Amitav Ghosh: Two book series that discusses living in India during British Colonization.
Diaspora: a collection of poetry by Black authors
Upstate by Kalisha Buckhanon (HC): a powerful story told through letters between incarcerated 17 year old Antonio and his girlfriend Natasha
The Lost Boy: A Foster Child's Search for the Love of a Family by Dave Pelzer
Common Sense by Thomas Paine: 1776 classic by founding father Thomas Paine calling for the American Revolution
Oliver Twist by Charles Dickens (HC) : classic story of orphaned boy escaping from forced labor and living on the streets of London
Lionheart by Sharon Kay Penman (HC): epic about medieval times in England
Tess of the d'Urbervilles by Thomas Hardy: a young woman from a poor family is given an unexpected second chance at life.
Selected Speeches of Abraham Lincoln with an intro by Gore Vidal
Silas Marner by George Eliot(HC): An outwardly simple tale of a linen weaver, the novel is notable for its strong realism and its sophisticated treatment of a variety of issues ranging from religion to industrialisation to community.
Better By Mistake: The Unexpected Benefits of Being Wrong by Alina Tugend (HC): acknowledging and accepting mistakes and embracing the imperfection in all of us.
Shakespeare (Midsummer NIght's Dream, Alls Well That Ends Well, Henry V, Macbeth, Romeo & Juliet, Merchant of Venice, Hamlet, Taming of the Shrew)
Hewers of Wood & Drawers of Water (HC): Noncitizen Arabs in the Israeli labor market
Increase ACT Score 3 Minutes a Day
Witnesses for Change by Susan M Stuard: Quaker Women over three centuries
Shipwreck at the Bottom of the World by Jennifer Armstrong: The extraordinary true story behind Ernest Shackleton's harrowing expedition to Antarctica on the Endurance

Newsletter and Printouts

We are beginning a new service for incarcerated people offering free subscriptions to printed newsletters. You can request printouts from a particular website or blog (such as Its Going Down or your local news station), a social media feed (twitter, instagram), RSS feed, a Wikipedia article, or you can give us a list of topics or subjects you are interested in (legal updates, sports, diy, politics, anything). We believe that these printed pages may be an allowable alternative for people at those terrible institutions that irrationally prohibit books and magazines.

Please write to us and tell us that you would like a Newsletter Subscription and tell us your interests and we'll start sending you printouts!

Legal Materials

We will send you legal materials upon **REQUEST BY CHAPTER and/or TOPIC**. (We are not able to provide legal advice or representation)

Columbia Jailhouse Lawyers Manual.

Ch 1: How to Use the JLM
Ch 2: Introduction to Legal Research
Ch 3: Your Right to Learn the Law & Go to Court
Ch 4: How to Find a Lawyer
Ch 5: Choosing a Court and a Lawsuit
Ch 6: An Introduction to Legal Documents
Ch 7: Freedom of Information
Ch 8: Obtaining Information to Prepare Your Case: The Process of Discovery
Ch 9: Appealing Your Conviction or Sentence
Ch 10: Applying for Re-Sentencing for Drug Offenses
Ch 11: Using Post-Conviction DNA testing to Attack Your Conviction or Sentence
Ch 12: Appealing Your Conviction Based on Ineffective Assistance of Counsel
Ch 13: Federal Habeas Corpus
Ch 14: The Prison Litigation Reform Act
Ch 15: Inmate Grievance Procedures
Ch 16: Using 42 U.S.C. § 1983 to Obtain Relief from Violations of Federal
Ch 17: The State's Duty to Protect You and Your Property: Tort Actions
Ch 18: Your Rights At Prison Disciplinary Proceedings
Ch 19: Your Right to Communicate with the Outside World
Ch 20: Using Article 440 if the New York Criminal Procedure Law to Attack Your Unfair Conviction or Illegal Sentence
Ch 21: State Habeas Corpus: Florida, New York, and Michigan
Ch 22: How to Challenge Administrative Decisions Using Article 78 of the New York Civil Practice Law and Rules
Ch 23: Your Right to Adequate Medical Care
Ch 24: Your Right to be Free from Assault by Prison Guards and Other Incarcerated People
Ch 25: Your Right to be Free from Illegal Body Searches
Ch 26: Infectious Diseases: AIDS, Hepatitis, Tuberculosis, and MRSA in Prison
Ch 27: Religious Freedom in Prison
Ch 28: Rights of Incarcerated People with Disabilities
Ch 29: Special Issues for Incarcerated People with Mental Illness
Ch 30: Special Information for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and/or Queer Incarcerated People
Ch 31: Security Classification and Gang Validation
Ch 32: Parole
Ch 33: Rights of Incarcerated Parents
Ch 34: The Rights of Pretrial Detainees
Ch 35: Getting Out Early: Conditional and Early Release
Ch 36: Special Considerations for Sex Offenders
Ch 37: Rights Upon Release
Ch 38: Rights of Youth in Prison
Ch 39: Temporary Release Programs
Ch 40: Plea Bargaining
Ch 41: Special Issues of Incarcerated Women

Section IX: Appendices

Appendix I: Addresses of Federal Courts & New York State Prisons and Their Respective Federal Judicial Districts
Appendix II: New York State: Filing Instructions & Addresses of New York State Courts
Appendix III: Addresses of New York District Attorneys
Appendix IV: Directory of Legal and Social Services for Incarcerated People

Looking out my cell window I can see; a barbed-wire
and electrical fence that surrounds me
I've lost my freedom and positive strife
The pain cuts me like a knife
My existence of being is very frail
Life's positive expectations are extremely pale
I sit in unthoughtfulness and sorrow
For today will be the same as tomorrow

By Michael Green

A Dream For A Knight
By John Wilson

A bright, magnificent day it seems
The sun comes out and the drew gleams
The Knight awakens to face his dreams

Beware the dragon my son:
Those eyes of flame and teeth that catch
Watch out for the scales you see, the lair and the latch

His sword was sharp and long
He waited hoping to be wrong

But the dragon came stompijng with all it's might
They fought for hours, drom dawn 'til night
They fought 'til the dragon hit the ground
The heart is what the sword had found

Never had this dragon felt such dread
Now he lays off of his feet, now he lays dead

The Knight has fulfilled his deed
The Kingdom he will always need

But the Knight he wakes
His head he shakes

The dream is now Reality

Appendix V: Definitions of Words Used in the JLM
Appendix VI: Definitions of Latin Words Used in the JLM
Constitutional Rights of Prisoners 2010
ch. 1 - An Overview of the Judicial System
ch. 2 - Administrative Law
ch. 3 - Use of Force; Use of Corporal Punishment to Enforce Prison Discipline
ch. 4 - Prisoners' Rights to Visitation/Association; Searches
ch. 5 - Prisoners' Rights to Use of the Mail, Internet and Telephone
ch. 6 - Isolated Confinement—"The Hole" and Administrative Segregation
ch. 7 - Religion in Prison
ch. 8 - Legal Services
ch. 9 - Prisoner Disciplinary Proceedings
ch. 10 - Right to Rehabilitation Programs, Right to Medical Aid, and Right to Life
ch. 11 - Additional Litigation
ch. 12 - Parole & Probation
ch. 13 - Litigation against Government and Individuals
ch. 14 - The Prison Litigation Reform Act
ch. 15 - Selected Federal Statutes Affecting Prisoners
OTHER TOPICS
1. Disciplinary self help
2. Habeas ineffective assistance of counsel
3. Habeas prosecutorial misconduct
4. Commutation Petition-a guide for incarcerated people and their loved ones
5. Effective communication for commutations: a teacher's guide
6. Status of & protections for incarcerated persons under federal labor laws and constitutional rights
ILLINOIS SPECIFIC CASES
Office of the State Appellate Defender Criminal Law Handbook by Chapter The Illinois Handbook of Criminal Law Decisions contains summaries of significant decisions. The Handbook is organized by topic, and decision, summaries are added as cases are decided.
CH 01 Accountability
CH 02 Appeal
CH 03 Armed Violence
CH 04 Arson
CH 05 Attempt
CH 06 Bail
CH 07 Battery, Assault, Stalking Offenses
CH 08 Burglary and Residential Burglary
CH 09 Collateral Remedies
CH 10 Confessions
CH 11 Conspiracy and Solicitation
CH 12 Contempt of Court
CH 13 Controlled Substances
CH 14 Counsel
CH 15 Discovery
CH 16 Disorderly, Escape, Resisting & Obstructing Offenses
CH 17 Double Jeopardy
CH 18 Entrapment
CH 19 Evidence
CH 20 Extradition
CH 21 Fitness To Stand Trial
CH 22 Forcible Felonies
CH 23 Forgery
CH 24 Guilty Pleas
CH 25 Home Invasion
CH 26 Homicide
CH 27 Identification
CH 28 Immunity
CH 29 Indictments, Information, Complaints
CH 30 Insanity - Mentally Ill - Intoxication
CH 31 Judge
CH 32 Jury
CH 33 Juvenile Proceedings
CH 34 Kidnapping, Unlawful Restraint & Related Offenses
CH 35 Obscenity
CH 36 Parole, Pardons and Prisoners' Rights
CH 37 Perjury
CH 38 Preliminary Hearing

CH 39 Probation, Periodic Imprisonment, Conditional Discharge and Supervision of the Noncitizens' Extraterritorial Constitution
CH 40 Prosecutor
CH 41 Reasonable Doubt
CH 43 Search and Seizure
CH 44 Sentencing
CH 45 Sex Offenses
CH 46 Speedy Trial
CH 47 Statutes
CH 48 Theft And Other Property Offenses CH 49 Traffic Offenses
CH 50 Trial Joinder And Severance
CH 51 Trial Procedures
CH 52 Venue and Jurisdiction
CH 53 Verdicts
CH 54 Waiver - Plain Error - Harmless Error
CH 55 Weapons
CH 56 Witness

Monthly Criminal Law Digest

Office of the State Appellate Defender The monthly digest contains summaries of significant decisions by Illinois reviewing courts and the United States Supreme Court for each month, organized by topic. Newer editions usually come out late. We currently have the monthly digest for the months of August 2021 to July 2022. **Request by month.**

Columbia Human Rights Law Review Articles

Vol. 53 (2021-22)

No. 1 Fall 2021

1. There Is No Such Thing As A "Legal Name"
2. The Time Trap: Addressing the Stereotypes that Undermine Tribal Sovereignty
3. Hard Drive Heritage: Digital Cultural Property in the Law of Armed Conflict
4. Evaluating Autonomous Weapons Systems: A Dichotomic Lens of Military Value Accountability
5. A "Bedrock Principle" That Wasn't: Alliance for Open Society II and the Future
6. Dead Right: A Cautionary Capital Punishment Tale
7. Scorched Border Litigation

No. 2 Winter 2021

8. Rights to Nowhere: The IDEA's Inadequacy in High-Poverty Schools
9. A Quadruple Doctrinal Framework of Free Speech
10. Closing the Health Justice Gap: Access to Justice in Furtherance of Health Equity
11. Critical Infrastructure, Environmental Racism, and Protest: A Case Study in Cancer Alley, Louisiana
12. A Prosecutor with a Smoking Gun: Examining the Weaponization of Race, Psychopathy, and ASPD Labels in Capital Cases
13. Behind the Blue Wall of Silence: Racial Disparities in NYPD Discipline

No. 3 Spring 2022

14, Introduction to the "Future of the Insular Cases" Special Issue
15. Saying What Everyone Knows to Be True: Why Stare Decisis Is Not an Obstacle to Overruling the Insular Cases
16. Making the Constitutional Case for Decolonization: Reclaiming the Original Meaning of the Territory Clause
17. Status Manipulation and Spectral Sovereigns
18. Llegaron los Federales: The Federal Government's Prosecution of Local Criminal Activity in Puerto Rico

Vol. 52 (2020-21)

No. 1 Fall 2020

19. Charting Global Economic Inequalities and Emancipatory Human Rights Responses from the Ground Up: The Tea Workers' Movement of Bangladesh
20. Losing the Freedom to Be Human

Ode to Higher Love
Copyright August 8, 2021 by William Bouton

Why do the written lines
Fill my mind like wings lifting
Reaching to the sky and higher
When an Angel imparts gifts
Granting flight to caged minds?
While she dances to forget
The heartbreaks of broken dreams
Our timeline horizons
Can it be starshine alignment
Or the power of self sacrifice
Placing others' needs on par with Heaven's scheme
Thoughts are prayers to the Universe Cloud
Stored with tidal power of sacred psychic energy
Shooting Inspiration's sparks from Angel wings
Borne on winds of desire to teach
Refueled and encouraged with every enlightened eye
The vanguard of Humanities holy of holies
Guiding lost, blind, angry, kind, scared, scarred, and lame alike
Reaching across chasms of static, unafraid
Touching without fleshly contact inside the deepest core
Where the Third Eye sees with greater clarity
The translucent angelic hand aura of hope offerings
Laid upon the altar of Knowledge and Growth
I think the elevations of Mind
Must be her strength of love for others
A love beyond the five sense
A love above confines of lust and death
A love of existence for all its' gritty worth
A love that thinks therefore a love in Truth
Undeniable, reliable, pliable, reconcilable
Dance Angel, Whirl, spin, shake, shimmer
A gleeful dervish of Illumination celebrating
Setting Fire to all minds caught in your retinue train

Reparations
Copyright April 25, 2018 by William Bouton

Johnny Rebel statues staring North
Mobile and Gulf Railroad steel rails set on course
Dusty dirt road winding through the dell
Brownsville General Store porch rocking chair to set a speel
M & G's Mogul 97 engine sighing steam-cloud spray
Faded Coke sign flaps on a brick wall
Passenger car a Jim Crow Combo so-called
Bubba's barnstorming billboard vying for votes
Ole 97's smokestack belching out blueblack smoke
It's a South been and gone not so long ago
Lingering in memories of folktales sung now more than told
Days of oppressive separation sore remembered with scorn
When unfettered race-hatred was some unspoken social norm

Reparations reparations how can it ever be enough
For degradation of generations
The People's culture of broken trust

Reparations reparations cannot ever be enough
For realization of full emancipation
Choosing freedom is the one must

Reparations reparations have scarcely even begun
For restoration of our wounded nation
Healing the people must be done
Old sins must be forgiven
Systemic racism must be ended and forbidden

21. Locked Out by Big Data : How Big Data, Algorithms, and Machine Learning May Undermine Housing Justice
22. Complicity of International Financial Institutions in Violation of Human Rights in the Context of Economic Reforms
23. An Inherent Right to Health: Reviving Article II(C) of the Genocide Convention
24. In Search of Judicial Compassion: The Cantu-Lynn Divide over Compassionate Release for Federal Prisoners
25. Addressing Discretion and Discrimination in the Mexican National Migration Institute
26. Free and Equal Elections: A New State Constitutionalism for Partisan Gerrymandering

No. 2 Winter 2020

27. The Road to Racial Justice: Resolving the Disproportionate Health Burden Placed on Communities of Color by Highway Pollution
28. Willful Blindness: Challenging Inadequate Ability to Pay Hearings Through Strategic Litigation and Legislative Reforms
29. Cruel and Unusual Trauma: How Eighth Amendment Principles Governing Conditions of Confinement Should Apply to Juvenile Strip Searches
30. Of American Fragility: Public Rituals, Human Rights, and the End of Invisible Man
31. Obscured by "Willful Blindness": States'
32. Preventive Obligations and the Meaning of Acquiescence Under the Convention Against Torture
33. The Injustices of Time: Rights, Race, Redistribution, and Responsibility
34. Criminal Responsibility for the COVID-19 Pandemic in Syria
35. Righting the Scales of Justice: The Critical Need for Contempt Proceedings Against Lawless Landlords
36. Unwilling or Unable? The Failure to Conform the Nonstate Actor Standard in Asylum Claims to the Refugee Act

Spring 2021

37. Symposium Introduction: Sex Workers' Rights, Advocacy, and Organizing
38. FOSTA in Legal Context
39. Porn Work, Independent Contractor Misclassification, and the Limits of the Law
40. The Roots of "Modern Day Slavery": The Page Act and the Mann Act
41. The Many Lives of a "Win": Canada (Attorney General) v. Downtown Eastside Sex Workers United Against Violence Society

Vol. 51 (2019-20)

No. 1 Fall 2019

42. When "Material" Loses Meaning: Matter of A-C-M- and the Material Support Bar to Asylum
43. Failure on the Front Line: How the Americans With Disabilities Act should be Interpreted to Better Protect Persons in Mental Health Crisis from Fatal Police Shootings
44. Urbicide and Property Under Assad: Examining Reconstruction and Neoliberal Authoritarianism in a "Postwar" Syria
45. Climate Migration & Self-Determination
46. Nunca Más Meets #Niunamenos—Accountability for Pinochet-Era Sexual Violence in Chile
47. Enter at Your Own Risk: Criminalizing Asylum-Seekers

No. 2 Winter 2019

48. Let Them Eat Paint: Childhood Lead Paint Poisoning as the Denial of Constitutional and Civil Rights
49. Uganda's Tax on Social Media: Financial Burdens as a Means of Suppressing Dissent

50. Lawyers for #UsToo: An Analysis of the Challenges Posed by the Contingent Fee System in Tort Cases for Sexual Assault
51. Making Rights a Reality: Access to Health Care for Afro-Colombian Survivors of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence
52. Unlocking the Power and Possibility of Local Enforcement of Human and Civil Rights: Lessons Learned from the NYC Commission on Human Rights
53. An Oasis in the Human Rights Litigation Desert? A Roadmap to Using California Code of Civil Procedure Section 354.8 as a Means of Breaking Out of the Alien Tort Statute Straitjacket
54. The Law Against Family Separation

No. 3 Spring 2020

55. Symposium: Furman's Legacy: New Challenges to the Overbreadth of Capital Punishment
56. Local History, Practice, and Statistics: A Study on the Influence of Race on the Administration of Capital Punishment in Hamilton County, Ohio (January 1992- August 2017)
57. Hurricane Florida: The Hot and Cold Fronts of America's Most Active Death Row
58. Valuing Black Lives: A Case for Ending the Death Penalty
59. Double Duty: The Amplified Role of Special Circumstances in California's Capital Punishment System
60. A Systematic Lottery: The Texas Death Penalty, 1976 to 2016
61. Race, Ethnicity, and the Death Penalty in San Diego County: The Predictable Consequences of Excessive Discretion
62. Hidalgo v. Arizona and Non-Narrowing Challenges
Sam Kamin and Justin Marceau
63. Restoring Empirical Evidence to the Pursuit of Evenhanded Capital Sentencing

Spring 2020

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80. Hidalgo v. Arizona and Non-Narrowing Challenges
81. Restoring Empirical Evidence to the Pursuit of Evenhanded Capital Sentencing

Vol. 50 (2018-19)

No. 1 Fall 2018

82. The Emerging Doctrine of State/Municipal Liability
83. The Ring of Truth: Demeanor and Due Process in U.S. Asylum Law
This is Still a Profession: Special Administrative Measures, the Sixth Amendment, and the Practice of Law
84. Detention on Discriminatory Grounds: An Analysis of the Jurisprudence of the United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention
85. When Death Becomes Murder: A Primer on Extrajudicial Killing
86. Constitutional Cities: Sanctuary Jurisdictions, Local Voice, and Individual Liberty

A Prisoner's Pain
By Drew Betterly

There's no protection for the victim when you're the poor.
No defense for the weak when you're considered less.
All odds are against you when all you want is to be equal.
Can't put up much a fight when deprived of your breath.

With callused spirits & longing souls repentant,
We look for daylight in darkness through the depths of an endless sentence.
Told to forgive our neighbors they abolish our rights to be forgiven.
We live out our days in filth & sorrow as the dead among the living.

So many locked away experiencing life through rusted bars & razor wire.
When suicide is the only hope in receiving any power that's higher.
Behind a steel curtain they hide us, societies dirty secrets,
To rot, lost & alone, buried in our regrets & underachievements.

Is this it? Is this all? When you're sick of hearing those questions,
Motives & motivations become non-existent & obsolete
Shadows cast upon the morals to empty spiritual lessons.

When you eat hate, drink stress, & breath nothing but pain,
Every night you lay to rest in a bed of death & cover up in flames.
And as our eyes roll back & our mouths hang slack with stress induced delusions,
We give up all hope of better days & give in to cynical conclusions.

CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE WORST KIND
"Guards Emptied A Can of Pepper Spray On Us!"
"File A Grievance!"
Guards Hit Me In The Kidney so Hard I pissed blood For Three Days!
"File A Grievance!"
The Mail Room Delays Outgoing Mail, In Violation Of Federal Law, 18 U.S. Codes 1703(a)!
"File A Grievance!"
DOC
The Guards Strip-Searched Female Prisoners, ... "laughed at our nakedness and bleeding!"
"File A Grievance!"
ARE THEY ALL STUPID ???
DOC
DOC
They Not Only "Lose, Delay or Destroy" Both Incoming And Outgoing U.S. Mail, They "Misplace, Lose, Misconstrue or Destroy" All Our Grievances!
"File A Grievance!"
"File A Grievance!"
Another Way Of Saying ...
"F__K YOU! You've Got Nothing Coming!"
Social Justice
Prison Misadventures—At A DOC Facility Near You!
Mission: To serve justice in Illinois and increase public safety by promoting positive change in offender behavior, operating successful reentry programs, and reducing victimization.
Political Commentary

Bob Covelli

No. 2 Winter 2018

87. Suing for the City: Expanding Public Interest Group Enforcement of Municipal Ordinances
88. This Time I'll be Bulletproof: Using Ex Parte Firearm Prohibitions to Combat Intimate- Partner Violence
89. Conceptualizing Victimization at the International Criminal Court: Understanding the Causal Relationship Between Crime and Harm
90. Chutes and Ladders: Nonrefoulement and the Sisyphean Challenge of Seeking Asylum in Hungary
91. Pereira v. Sessions: A Jurisdictional Surprise for Immigration Courts
92.Mandating Justice: Naranjo v. Thompson as a Solution for Unequal Access to Representation

No. 3 Spring 2019

94. Scanning for Justice: Using Neuroscience to Create a More Inclusive Legal System
95. Thick Enough to Stop a Bullet: Civil Protection Orders, Social Media, and Free Speech
96. Defining Detention: The Intervention of the European Court in the Detention of Involuntary Migrants
97. The International Diffusion of Fundamental Labour Standards: Contemporary Content, Scope, Supervision, and Proliferation of Core Workers' Rights Under Public, Private, Binding, and Voluntary Regulatory Regimes
98. Withholding Protection
99. Columbia Human Rights Law Review Fiftieth Anniversary Issue: Foreword
Robert A. Katzmann

Vol. 49 (2017-18)

No. 1 Fall 2017

100. Remarks by Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan
101. The Local Turn in U.S. Human Rights: Introduction to the Special Symposium Issue

No. 2 Winter 2017

102. Cultural Heritage Protection and Sacred Spaces: Considering Alternative Approaches from Within the Human Rights Framework
103. Consenting to Dispossession: The Problematic Heritage and Complex Future of Consultation and Consent of Indigenous Peoples

No. 3 Spring 2018

104. Modern Self-Defense: The Use of Force Against Non-Military Threats
105. Introducing a "New" Human Right: Learning From Others, Bringing Legal Capacity Home

Vol. 48 (2016-17)

No. 1 Fall 2016

106. Competing for Refugees: A Market-Based Solution to a Humanitarian Crisis
107. Dead Silent: Heuristics, Silent Motives, and Asylum

No. 2 Winter 2016

108. The Right to Insult in International Law

No. 3 Spring 2017

109. Zooming out, then Zooming in: Using International Law to Advance
110. The State of the City and the Future of Human Rights: A Review of Global
111. You Have the Right to Remain a Child: The Right to Juvenile Treatment for Youth in Conflict With the Law

Resource Directory

(A larger Prisoner Resource Directory is available through us or through PARC below)

Chicago Community Bond Fund
1-844-END-BOND (1-844-363-2663)
601 S. California, Chicago, IL

The Chicago Community Bond Fund (CCBF) operates a revolving fund that pays bond for people charged with crimes in Cook County.

Chicago Community Jail Support
27th and California Blvd every day from 5PM to 10PM (extend to 11PM weekends)

Chicago Community Jail Support is a daily, on the ground, grassroots mutual aid project to assist anyone being released from Cook County Jail, their loved ones & the surrounding community. We focus on providing direct aid that meets the immediate needs of those being released with phone calls, warm clothing, snacks, drinks, PPE, safe transportation home, and emergency housing.

Cook County Public Defender
(844) 817-4448
2245 West Ogden Avenue
Chicago, IL 60612
24 hours / 7 days a week

Free legal representation to anyone who is arrested and detained by law enforcement in Cook County. Arrestees and/or their family and friends can make a toll-free call to 844-817-4448, and an attorney will be dispatched to the police station to assist the individual in asserting his or her rights.

Uptown People's Law Center
4413 N. Sheridan
Chicago, Illinois 60640
(773) 769-1411

For over 40 years, Uptown People's Law Center has been dedicated to supporting the struggle of poor and working people. Our work focuses on: Prisoners denied their basic human rights, Tenants facing eviction, Individuals seeking Social Security disability income

Ascend Justice
17 N. State St., Suite 1390
Chicago, IL 60602
(312) 971-5932
www.ascendjustice.org

Ascend Justice assists parents, caregivers, and professionals who work with children with legal services related to: Family, Child Welfare, Immigration, Housing and Employment, Crime Victim Compensation Applications and Other Economic Justice Issues

Beyond Legal Aid
17 North State St #1380
Chicago, IL 60602
Office: (312) 999-0056
Immigration Helpline: (872) 267-2252

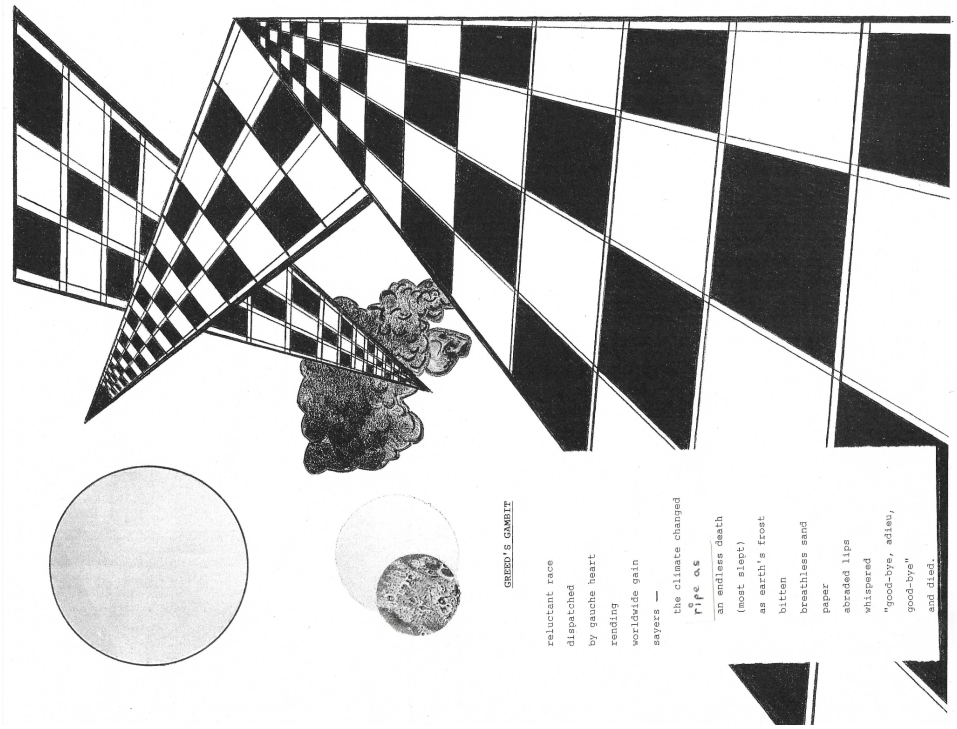
Beyond Legal Aid unites lawyers and activists in a collaborative pursuit for justice by leveraging legal services to benefit the most marginalized communities and individuals. Services: Immigration, Family, Labor/Employment, Housing, Criminal Records, Education, Consumer

Cabrini Green Legal Aid (CGLA)
Criminal, Expungement and Sealing
6 S. Clark St. Suite 200
Chicago, IL 60603
(312) 738-2452

Criminal Records Relief, Juvenile Expungement, Parole Revocation (juvenile and adult), Defense (limited), Housing, Family, Civil Asset Forfeiture, Arrest Record Discrimination (for employment)

CARPLS (Coordinated Advice and Referral Program for Legal Services)
Free Hotline: (312) 738-9200

Landlord-Tenant, Foreclosure, Employment, Education, Consumer Debt, Divorce, Guardianship, Estates, Personal Injury, Property Damage, Public Benefits and Health Care



Masquerade
bob coveilli

The COVID Ball, a healthcare smash,
Defiant faker, chasing fame;
"Re-open States!" – A bedlam bash –
A Waltz of scorn – A surge of shame

He stands exposed, above the law,
Below the belt, his words precise;
Without a doubt, without a flaw,
He helps himself at any price.

His plans unveiled, a plaque of tears,
Bedeviled bungler's tasteless Tweets;
Divide & Dupe – he banks of fears –
He touts untruth with guff conceit.

"The overrated Virus Test!"
Ignoring facts, the hate he stokes;
As families lay their own to rest,
He lies upright, "It's Just A Hoax!"

"Re-open Schools!" The game's begun –
He throws them bones, we hold our breath;
Our children's dream and hopes undone
As time unmasks the face of death.

Chicago Books to Women in Prison c/o RFUMC 4511 N. Hermitage Ave Chicago, IL 60640	Sends books to women and trans people in state prisons in Arizona, California, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Mississippi and Ohio, as well as all federal prisons. We do not send books to jails and other short-term facilities outside Chicago.
Chicagoland Prison Outreach P.O. Box 63 South Holland, IL 60473 708-331-3301, ext. 103	Chicagoland Prison Outreach provides training and education in various trades to the formerly incarcerated, with the goal of teaching self-sufficiency and financial support of the individual. Welding, Carpentry, Case Management, Job Placement, Trauma Coaching
Chicago Coalition for the Homeless 70 E Lake St. Chicago, IL 60601 (312) 641-4140	Education, Civil Rights, Access to Health Care and Public Benefits and other civil legal issues affecting homeless individuals
Chicago Lawyer's Committee for Civil Rights Under Law 100 North LaSalle Street, Suite 600, Chicago, IL, 60602 (312)630-9744	We are civil rights lawyers and advocates working to secure racial equity and economic opportunity for all. Community law issues, starting or operating a nonprofit or representation for a community coalition, Housing, Education, Hate Crimes, Voting Rights
Chicago Legal Clinic 24 hour hotline: 312.726.2938 South Chicago Office (2938 E. 91st St / Chicago, IL 60617 (773) 731-1762) Austin Office (118 N Central Ave / Chicago, IL 60644 (773) 854-1610) Pilsen Office (1914 S. Ashland Ave, Chicago, IL 60608, (312) 226-2669) Downtown Office (211 W. Wacker Drive, Suite 750 / Chicago, IL 60606 (312) 726-2938)	Greater Chicago Legal Clinic boasts a storied history and a legacy of providing affordable, high-quality legal services for the most underserved populations in the Chicagoland community. Adoption, Child Custody and Support, Criminal Records, Divorces, Domestic Violence Prevention, Environmental Issues, Foreclosure Defense, Guardianship, Immigration, Real Estate Transactions, and Social Security Benefits
Chicago Volunteer Legal Services 33 North Dearborn Street, Suite 400, Chicago, Illinois 60602 (312) 332-1624	Adoption, Divorce, Minor and Adult Guardianship, Child Support Enforcement, Landlord Disputes, Tenant Eviction, Mortgage Foreclosure, Probate Assistance Rescue Fraud, Title and Property Claims, Wills and Advanced Directives, Consumer Problems, Chapter 7 Bankruptcy, Immigration
Lawndale Christian Legal Center 1530 S. Hamlin Ave. Chicago, IL 60623 (312) 762-6381	Full representation on criminal or juvenile delinquency matters for youth and young adults in the North Lawndale community, paired with case management and other social services
Prison Activist Resource Center PO Box 70447 Oakland, CA 94612	PARC produces a free Resource Directory with hundreds of addresses of organizations offering resources for prisoners. You can write them directly or also request a copy from us at Midwest Books to Prisoners.

Adrian Pettis

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